Production of Dursban in India

2922. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Dow Chemical Company, the present owner of Union Carbide Corporation has to withdraw its product Dursban (Chlopyriphos) form US markets primarily because of its effect on children's health;

(b) if so, under what circumstances Government have allowed Dow Chemicals to set up production facility and distribution network for Dursban in India; and

(c) the names of the Government departments and public sector undertaking that are purchasing Dursban and other pesticides and chemicals form Dow chemicals.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Chlorpyriphos is an insecticide. Its formulations are registered for use in agriculture, wood treatment for termite & borer, termite control in building in favour of many registrants including M/s. Dow Chemical Company. In the year 2000 the US Government banned; most of the home use of Chlorpyriphos in an ongoing effort to implement the Food Quality Protection Act, 1996 which required a systemic review of all pesticides to ensure that they need tighter standards with a goal of protecting children foremost. A Committee was constituted by the Plant Protection Advisor to the Government of India on the directives of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation in August 2000 to review the use of Chlorpyriphos in the country. The Committee recommended for continued use of Chlorpyriphos in agriculture as per Good Agricultural practice and for pre and post contruction use as termiticide in the buildings. The ready to use formulations of concentration is less than 50 gms in household are considered on a case to case basis. The recommendations are given in the Statement (*See* below)

(c) Trade of Chlorpyriphos (Dursban) and other pesticides is free. However, it is mandatory to obtain registration for maunfacture or import of insecticides under the provision of the Insecticides Act, 1968. It is also simultaneously mandatory to obtain a licence to stock, distribute, sale/ display for sale or stock for Commercial Pest Control Operation of any insecticide.

Statement

Recommendations regarding use of Chlorpyriphos in the country

Based on the deliberations held during 1st, 2nd and 3rd meetings, the following are the recommendations:

1. The use of Chlorpyriphos in agriculture may be continued. However, Good Agricultural Practices are required to be observed, specially during its use on fruits and vegetables so that the residues do not exceed the maximum limits.
2. The pre and post construction uses of Chlorpyriphos as termiticide in building may be continued. However, the data is required to be generated on the air concentration in the environment of the inhabitants and longterm health impact of residual air concentration on inhabitants in case of post construction termiticide uses.
3. Further studies on bio-efficacy with 0.5% solution as termiticide in building are required to be undertaken.
4. The ready-to-use formulation of concentration <50 gm/lt be considered for use in the household on case to case basis after evaluating the data submitted by the applicant regarding their safety. Further the use of concentrated formulations containing > 50 gm/lt Chlorpyriphos may be permitted through approved Pest Control Operators only provided the end use concentration do not exceed 50 gm/lt.
5. Data on post marketing surveillance for health monitoring of inhabitants of 100 houses should be obtained for formulations of category II and III (*i.e.* liquid formulations and formulations which emit vapour or gas on heating) within a period of one year of registration.

Food subsidy Bill

2923. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the food subsidy bill has gone up more than 10 times from Rs. 2450 crores in 1990-91 to Rs. 25,800 crores in 2003-04;